

# Habitat lives to build

Students attempt to attract attention to their charitable cause

Alicia Collins  
Staff Reporter

Living in an 8-by-10-foot cardboard box on the corner of the Quad might sound like a joke.

For Truman Habitat for Humanity, it was reality from Sept. 26 to 30. Senior Kelsey Aurand, Habitat on the Quad co-chairperson, said she was among students living on the Quad to raise money to build Habitat's next house.

"We felt that the only way that we could, with any integrity, ask for a dollar from every student was to live as people in the Kirksville community do with standard housing," she said.

Aurand said it took Habitat members about eight hours to build the house, and all new materials were used. The past two years, the same materials were used, but they were impractical this year.

"A member of Habitat bought the 2-by-4 planks of wood," she said. "The nails and staples came from our own supply, and Wal-Mart donated all of the cardboard boxes that make up the majority of the house."

Aurand said the students slept on the ground all week and were allowed only a pillow and a sleeping bag or blankets to sleep with.

She said they were not allowed to go back to their residence hall rooms or apartments at all, so they took showers at the Student Recreation Center. All of their clothes, study materials and personal items were on the Quad, she said.

Regardless of weather conditions, the Habitat members persevered. Aurand said the roof was constructed shingle-style to make the rain roll off the roof instead of soaking the cardboard.

She said it rained during the week and they had to fix holes and leaks with duct tape.

Aurand said the house was placed on the corner of the Quad near Pickler Memorial Library and Baldwin Hall for an important reason.

"We are in the shelter of the trees, ... and this is really the heart of campus," she said. "Every single student passes by this corner at least once during the week, which makes it easier to collect donations."

Aurand said the goal of Habitat members was to raise at least \$5,000, which is sig-



Senior Raymond Reilner accepts donations for Habitat for Humanity as junior Kristine Kamper and sophomore Kara King sit outside of their makeshift house on the Quad last week.

Lisa Margetis/Index

nificantly more than previous years.

"Basically we're just trying to get everyone involved and have some fun."

Kelsey Aurand  
Habitat on the Quad  
Co-chairperson

Habitat's progress was charted on a large drawing of a hammer called the "Hammometer," using red spray paint to color the hammer up to the amount collected.

"There are well over 5,000 students on campus, and faculty members are more than welcome to help," Aurand said. "But since we are a campus chapter, we were focusing more on the students."

Throughout the week, the Habitat members entertained themselves with events such as soccer games, a marshmal-

low roast, and the appearance of Spike the Bulldog.

"Basically we're just trying to get everyone involved and have some fun, and hopefully we'll get more donations and reach our goal," Aurand said.

Truman Habitat for Humanity dedicated its fifth house Sept. 25 and is raising this money to start as soon as possible on its sixth, said senior Trey Robinson, Habitat on the Quad co-chairperson.

"Basically our theme is one goal, one student, one dollar, one home," he said. "The dedication is really exciting because we've put so much time and energy into building the house, and it's nice to be able to put faces and names behind what you've been working toward."

Robinson said many students probably are not aware that Adair County has the highest poverty rate in all

of Missouri at 23.3 percent. Kirksville is the largest town in the county, so many low-income families are in need of housing in the community, he said.

"A lot of students walk into these buildings every day and do not realize that people are actually living in houses like this and even worse in the community around them," he said.

Senior Peter Howe, president of Truman Habitat for Humanity, said these houses are designed to provide affordable housing for families who want to start building a solid life for themselves.

"The looks are priceless as the students walk by," he said. "... They look at us as if we're crazy, but hopefully it gets their attention, and they decide to help out in any way that they can."

# Walt Disney program enchants and disappoints

Naomi Davis  
Staff Reporter

The happiest place on earth soon will pay a visit to Truman, and it's looking to bring a few students back with it.

The Walt Disney College Program offers an information session where Truman students and campus representatives of the program speak out about their experiences with the internship.

Jessica Berger, a sixth-year senior psychology major, enjoyed herself enough to take two semesters off to work as a ride operator and the following year as a performer while still earning 12 hours of credit each semester.

"It was the most amazing time I ever had," Berger said. "I met people from all over the world."

Berger said that during her first stay with Disney, she worked

as a ride operator in Fantasy Land. One of the rides she operated, "Mickey's Philharmonic," was a 3-D show featuring Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, and it was a good spot for celebrity sightings, she said.

"I met Sean Astin and got to talk to him a couple of times," Berger said. "It was really cool because he talked to you like a normal person. I also met Kerri Strug and Kelly Ripa."

The program advertises seven available courses that have been approved for credit by the American Council on Education and can earn intern credit with their colleges. The courses include areas such as hospitality, communication and experiential learning.

A worker is provided housing by the company along with anywhere from two to eight roommates, depending on preference. Rent is taken directly out of the worker's paycheck after a work-week of 35 to 45 hours. Workers are paid amounts ranging from \$6 to \$6.50 per hour. Some other benefits are free admission to every park and discounts on food and apparel, Berger said.

"You go down for more than just your job," she said. "You have so many opportunities to meet people and get to know how things work in the entertainment industry."

The program offers sessions during the fall and spring semesters for both five- and eight-month periods, depending on the program. Berger, who completed two eight-month programs, spent her second internship as a performer.

Berger said one of her favorite aspects of the work was the Make-

A-Wish program, which sends many terminally ill children to Disney World to meet their favorite characters.

"You know they came down there to see that character, and you get to be that person," she said. "Once while I was performing, a kid with muscular dystrophy approached me. When he did, his mom started crying. I didn't know why then but found out that he would be wheelchair-bound soon, and his dream was to walk up on his own to his favorite Disney character."

Amanda Moore, a junior campus representative, spent her fall 2004 semester working in the Epicot Park in Disney World. Moore said she worked mainly serving refreshments such as ice cream, pretzels and beverages.

"I really liked being able to be out on my own and to meet people from all over the country," Moore

said. "I made so many friends that I still keep in touch with."

Opinions of the internship vary. Truman alumna Kim Zamastil was less impressed with her semester at the park.

"I had just finished my freshman year and didn't know what I was doing," Zamastil said. "It sounded like a good opportunity for personal

development and a chance to get out of the Midwest."

Zamastil said that once she got there, she found that Disney didn't encourage networking, and the classes they offered weren't worth the cost of the textbooks, especially because none of them could offer her credit with Truman.

"I was a 'food and beverage hostess,' which means I worked in a food court," she said. "It was hell. I flipped burgers and scrubbed floors for eight hours."

However, Zamastil said the park itself was fun and she now can claim to have ridden every ride in Disney World.

"I learned about corporate America, and I did get out of the Midwest," she said. "It definitely motivated me to go back to school so I don't have to work in fast food."

The program advertises itself as "looking for exceptional, ambitious students who have a genuine enthusiasm for their professional futures and who love making people smile."

A formal information session for the program will be Oct. 17.

Visit [www.wdcollegeprogram.com](http://www.wdcollegeprogram.com) for more information.

# Mission sells donated clothes, housewares

Volunteers help out to sell \$1 clothes, bags, 25-cent shoes

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

Some Kirksville women said all you have to do is look around the corner to help out those in need.

Gonda Manning, director of Out-Reach Mission, said the nonprofit organization, which opened June 13, sells everything from clothing to household items at low prices. It also donates to those who can't afford to pay, Manning said.

Volunteer Tiffany Sloop said there are different levels of need in Kirksville that many people don't realize.

"There are homeless people in Kirksville," Sloop said. "There are people who don't have enough to eat at night."

Sloop said many of the volunteers at the mission have experienced difficult times. She said the volunteers know what it is like to receive things, and now it is nice to be able to give back.

The mission has been able to help people whose houses were destroyed by a fire and others who have lost their jobs, Sloop said.

She said that for people who

don't have anything, items at the mission can help get them started.

"It is the community helping the community," Sloop said. "The people that have, donate to those who don't."

Volunteer Margaret Gregory said there are a lot of good organizations in the community, like the Salvation Army, but she thinks there always is room for more.

Many people opened their wallets and donated items to Hurricane Katrina victims, but she said it is also important to help out right where you are.

"I feel for the people in New Orleans, but sometimes we reach way over there trying to help somebody when there is a need right here," Gregory said.

She said she and Manning are neighbors, and one day last fall they started talking about things they wanted to do. They both realized they had visions to open a mission, Gregory said.

Gregory said there was a time she lived in California and went to a mission and got a meal and a box of groceries.

"I needed [the mission] at that time," Gregory said. "I thought, 'What a wonderful, wonderful place that this is.'"

Manning said they started looking for a building and spotted an old garage perfect for a mission.

"We felt like it was meant to be because it just fell in place," Manning said.

Gregory said they started with an empty building at first, but God has been good and has provided. The building now is filled with everything from clothing racks to the furnishings for a future kitchen.

Manning said the volunteers enjoy Truman students coming to the mission.

She said the students have fun modeling their clothes, and the volunteers have fun watching them.

No one who works at the mission is paid, Manning said. About eight volunteers regularly work throughout the week, she said.

Because the mission is not funded through a church or any



Courtney Robbins/Index

The Out-Reach Mission is a non-profit organization, which opened June 13. It sells everything from clothing to household appliances for a very low price. Gonda Manning, director of the mission, said they stay afloat with donations and fundraising events.

organization, all the proceeds go directly back into running the mission, Manning said.

With a bag of clothes only costing \$1 and a pair of shoes for 25 cents, paying the bills this winter might be difficult. Manning said they plan to have fundraisers, like ham and bean dinners and rummage sales, to help with the expenses. She said people in the community have been very generous in donating to the mission.

The volunteers are full of ideas to keep the mission running and to continue giving back to the community.

Manning said she has a vision the mission will keep expanding. She said the volunteers want to finish the kitchen to serve meals like in a soup kitchen. Manning said their goal is to serve a Thanksgiving dinner to people in the community who might not have one otherwise.

She also said that in the future, volunteers want to offer their talents to teach cooking and sewing lessons.

If the community continues to donate generously to the mission, Manning said it is possible it even could outgrow its current building.

Gregory said that because she and Manning are older, she hopes people will carry on the mission after they are gone.

"I would like to see it be a lasting thing ... because as long as there are people, there will be need," Gregory said.

Out-Reach Mission is located at 1007 N. Green St. and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. All donations are accepted.

The mission will have a rummage and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, serving ham and beans and baked goods for a fundraiser.